CHEPSTOW URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

WELSH BOARD OF HEALTH
30 NOV 1951

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1950.

GATE HOUSE,

CHEPSTOW, MON.

September, 1951.

CHEPSTOW URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Chairman. Mrs. Councillor M. Collins J.P.

Vice-Chairman. Mr. Councillor S.J. Richards.

COUNCILLORS :

Mr. A.J. James.
Mr. S.J. Ryan..
Mr. T.F.H. Lang.
Mr. A.T.B. O'Neill.
Mr. L. Price.
Mrs. S.B. Rees.
Mr. D.H. Davies.
Mr. W.G. James.
Mr. C.E.A. Morgan.
Mr. W. Powell-Tuck.
Mr. A.J. Proctor.
Mr. J.F. Price.
Mr.H.I. Waters.

OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL :

Clerk and Chief Financial Officer.	Mr. A. Gill.
Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.	Mr. H. Hewetson.
Rating Officer and Collector.	Mr. G.J. Vincdnt.
Medical Officer of Health.	Dr. E.N. Dowell.

Chepstow Urban District Council

ARTHUR GILL
CLERK AND
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER
TELEPHONE No. 857.

Gate House
Chepstow, Mon.

September, 1951.

To:- The Chairman and Members of the

Chepstow Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary conditions of your District for the year ended December 1950.

I remain,

Your Obedient Servant,

E.N. DOWELL.

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VITAL STATISTICS

Area (Acres)		1,350
Population.	1931 Census	4,303
	Registrar General's estimate mid 1949	5,020
	Registrar General's estimate mid 1950	5,080

Number of Inhabited premises:-

Houses, cottages etc.,	1,140
Temporary units (Converted concrete hutments, Nissen Huts etc.,)	69
Business Premises with housing accommodation.	76
Licenced Premises.	25
Private Hotels.	1
Hostels.	2
Hospitals.	4
Total:	1,317

Rateable Value @ 31st December, 1950. £27, 873

Product of a 1d Rate Actual 1949/50. £108. 12. 8.55

Actual 1950/51. £109. 5. 6·224

Rates levied for the financial year ending 31st March, 1951:-

	s.	d.
Chepstow Urban District Council.	5.	6.
Monmouthshire County Council.	10.	6.
Total	16.	0.

BIRTHS.

LIVE BIRTHS.	Male.	Female.	Totals.
Legitimate.	43	54	97
Illegitimate.	2	5	7
	45	59	104

Live Births.	Year 1950	Year 1949
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population.	20.47	17·3
Corresponding rate England and Wales.	15·8	16·7
Corresponding rate Monmouth County.	17·4	18·2

STILL BIRTHS.	Male	Female	Totals
Legitimate	1	--	1

	Year 1950	Year 1949
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 population.	0·2	0·598
Corresponding rate England and Wales.	0·37	0· 39
Corresponding rate Monmouth Council.	0·58	0· 58

INFANT MORTALITY.	Male	Female	Totals
Deaths in first year of life. (legitimate.)	5	2	7
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age.(legitimate*)	3	1	4

2 Infants ages 4 months and 8 months - Bronchopneumonia Whooping Cough.

	Year 1950	Year 1949.
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 births	67·3	11·63
Corresponding rate England and Wales.	29·8(a)	32
Corresponding rate Monmouth County.	39·8	42. 7

(a) per 1,000 related live Births.

DEATHS.

Total Deaths.	59 Year 1950	Year 1949
Death Rate per 1,000 population	11·61	9·56
Corresponding rate England and Wales.	11·6	11· 7
Corresponding rate Monmouth County.	12·3	12· 1

Maternal Mortality.	-
Deaths from Tuberculosis	
" " Respiratory system.	2
" " Cancer.	5
" " Measles	1
" " Vascular Lesions of Nervous System.	9
" " Heart Diseases	15

Tuberculosis.		Year 1950
Total number of cases notified during the year.		11
Pulmonary	10	
Non-Pulmonary	1	
(7 of these were first notifications.)		
Cases removed to Sanatorium		3
Cases discharged from Sanatorium		-

ANALYSIS OF TOTAL CASES AND DEATHS FROM INFECTIOUS DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) ACCORDING TO AGE GROUPS.

DISEASE	CASES NOTIFIED AGE GROUPS											DEATHS AGE GROUPS				Number admitted to Hospital
	Under 1 yr.	1 2	2 3	3 4	4 5	5 10	10 15	15 20	20 35	45 65	Total	Under 1 yr.	5 10	65 & over	Total	
Diphtheria																
Scarlet Fever					1	8		1	2		12					9
Enteric Fever								1	1	1	3					
Pneumonia																
Puerperal Fever																
Cerebro Spinal Fever																
Acute Poliomyelitis																
Encoph. Lethargica																
Dysentry																
Opnthalmia Neonatorum																
Puerperal Pyrexia																
Measles	3	3	7	6	11	47	1				78		1		1	4
Whooping Cough	1	1	2	3	2	4					13	2			2	
Erysiplas										1	1					
TOTALS:	4	4	9	9	13	59	1	2	3	2	107	2	1		3	13

HOUSING.

Pre-War.

Under the provisions of the Housing Act, 1930 the Council took the following action:-

11 Clearance Orders were made and confirmed involving 94 dwellings and outhouses and displacing 295 persons.

2 Demolition orders were made and 5 persons were displaced in consequence.

58 Dwellings were made fit for human habitation as a result of formal action under Sections 9 to 12 of the Housing Act, 1930 and by reason of the conversion of dwellings into a lesser number 14 persons were displaced.

To accommodate the total of 314 persons displaced as a result of the Slum Clearence Programme 74 (3 - bedroom non-parlour type) houses were erected by the Council ar St. Tecla, Bulwark.

Post-War.

In spite of the local problem of a shortage of building operatives progress in the provision of new dwellings was, on the whole, satisfactory during the twelve months ended 31st December, 1950. Although none of the 80 Cornish Units had been completed a vast amount of work had been carried out and at the end of December, 1950 this Contract, the largest single contract entered into by the Council, had reached the following stage:-

Number of dwellings in course of construction.	80.
Number which had reached eaves level.	64.
Number which had been roofed.	62.
Number which had been plastered.	18.

During the year, in addition to the Contract for 80 Cornish Units (prefabricated permanent type), a contract for 8 traditional houses was let.

At the 31st December, 1950 post-war schemes had reached the following stages:-

	Number of Houses.
Completed and occupied.	68
Roofed and plastered.	18
Roofed but not plastered.	46

C

	Number of Houses
At eaves level.	8
Between damp course and eaves level.	16
TOTAL completed or under construction.	156

The Council are to press forward with further schemes and every effort is being made to ensure that sites will be available for further houses as and when the contracts in hand finish. 22 acres of land at St. Tecla are in hand and it is intended to erect thereon approximately 128 houses of the following types:-

2 - bedroom	12
3 - bedroom	92
4 - bedroom	24
	128

In addition it is hoped to obtain sanction to erect lock-up shops with accommodation over and about 18 lock-up garages. When this site has been developed the Council will have completed no less than 284 post-war houses in the Bulwark area and it is obvious that with this concentration of population full shopping facilities must be provided. The Monmouthshire Education Committee propose to erect a new primary school at Bulwark and at the appropriate time the Council hope to negotiate for the acquisition of the existing temporary school for conversion into Community Centre.

Temporary Housing Accommodation.

No temporary prefabricated dwellings have been erected by the Council. but, with the approval of the Ministry of Local Goverment and Planning, the undermentioned temporary dwelling units have been provided:-

St. Maur College - converted into five flats.	5
St. Maur - Nissen Huts converted.	12
Bulwark Camp - converted concrete hutments.	52
TOTAL.	69

In addition a contract has been let for converting 20 more hutments at Bulwark Camp and plans were in the course of preparation for 16 more. It is anticipated that during 1951 the total number of converted hutments at Bulwark Camp will reach a total of 88.

Housing Associations.

As mentioned in my 1949 Report the Council entered into an agreement under the powers contained in Sections 93 and 94 of the Housing Act, 1936 with the Red & White Housing Association in respect of six houses erected in Cromwell Road, Bulwark, as a result of which the Association receive the Exchequer Grant of £16.10 per annum in respect of each house.

The Council have made a loan of £7, 020 to the Association.

The six houses were completed and occupied during 1949.

The Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts, 1899-1923.

The Acts were adopted on the 28th January, 1946.

During the year the Council agreed to make two advances under the Act bringing the total advances made or to be made to 6 and involving a total amount of £9, 708.

Port-War Housing by Private Enterprise.

At the 31st December, 1950 eleven houses had been completed and occupied by private enterprise and one more was in course of erection.

Allocation of Council Houses.

The Council still operate a "points scheme" for selecting tenants of both permanent and temporary accommodation and it has worked remarkably well.

Demand for Permanent Accommodation.

At the 31st December, 1950 there were 352 applications for accommodation, outstanding, including 71 from persons who had never at any time resided within the Chepstow Urban District. There is no doubt that people living near the boundaries of two or more districts register with more than one local authority. It may be safely assumed, therefore, that the figure of 352 does not indicate the true demand for houses and when the Council make a further survey, as they undoubtedly will after the houses to be erected in 1951 have been allocated, there is no doubt that a number of the applications will be "withdrawn".

The inspection of dwelling houses coming within the scope of the Housing Acts was not carried out systematically, although all complaints were dealt with. Owing to the shortage of building labour and materials any action under the provisions of this Act must, of necessity, be curtailed somewhat.

General Inspections.

The following is a list of the detailed list of the visits made and action taken under the Public Health and Housing Acts:-

Complaints received	...	...	81
Visits made in connection therewith	...	...	102
Re-visits made	...	...	240
Nuisances found	...	...	72
Nuisances remedied	...	...	64
Nuisances out-standing	...	...	8
Informal Notices served	...	...	54
Formal Notices served	...	...	3
Cattle Market visits	...	...	40
Food premises visits	...	...	26
Factories and Workshops Act Visits	...	...	24
Defects found	...	...	4
Reported to H.M. Inspector of Factories	...	...	Nil
Rodent Control	...	...	12
Premises disinfected after infectious diseases	...	...	2
Miscellaneous.	...	...	106

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1950.

Milk Supply

No. of wholesale producers with the area.	3
No. of retail purveyors within the area.	3

Milk (Special Designations) Orders.

No. of Producers of Tuberculin Tested Milk	1
No. of retailers of Tuberculin Tested Milk	2
No. of Pasteurising establishments.	1
No. of retailers of Pasteurised Milk	2

Samples of milk were taken throughout the year, and were found to be satisfactory.

Water Supply.

Water is supplied by a private Company, The Chepstow Water Company, and is derived from two sources, viz:- Rogerstone Grange, St. Arvans and White Mill in the Shirenewton district. The chlorination of both these supplies is carried out by the "chloramine" process. Routine samples were taken during the year for bacteriological examinations, and in each case were found to be satisfactory. Extensions to the existing mains have been carried out by the Company to meet the needs of the Council's Housing Estates.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

Extensions to the sewerage system have been carried out to serve the Council's Housing Estates at Hardwick Court and St. Tecla, Bulwark. The effluent from the sewers is discharged into the River Wye by means of gravitation through three main outlets.

Closet Accommodation.

Almost the whole of the premises in the Urban District are provided with water closets draining into the public sewers.

Swimming and Bathing Pools.

There are no swimming baths or pools within the Urban District.

Smoke Abatement.

No action was found necessary in connection with Smoke Abatement.

Bed Bugs.

No action was found necessary during the year in the control of bed bugs.

Inspection and Supervision of Meat.

Under the centralised scheme for slaughtering of the Ministry of Food no animals are killed in the Urban District, the carcasses being supplied direct from Newport. The regular inspection of the butchers shops and food premises is carried out, and generally a satisfactory standard of cleanliness has been maintained. The undermentioned goods were voluntarily surrendered during the year, as being unfit for human consumption:-

Meat surrendered	...	...	Nil.

Other Foods surrendered:

Luncheon Meat	...	...	34 tins.
Peaches	...	...	5 "
Tomatoes	...	...	62 "
Beetroot	...	...	5 "
Peas	...	...	9 "
Ideal Milk	...	...	40 "
Pineapples	...	...	1 "
Sardines	...	...	4 "
Pilchards	...	...	5 "
Baked Beans	...	...	11 "
Butter	...	...	12 lbs
Cheese	...	...	56 lbs
Sausages	...	...	50 lbs
Pearl Barley	...	...	1 cwt
Plaice	...	...	10 stone
Haddock	...	...	1 box
Cereals	...	...	8 packets
Salad Cream	...	...	2 jars
Marmalade	...	...	10 "
Jam	...	...	4 "
Ducks	...	...	70 no.

Cattle Market.

The market is operated by the Chepstow Urban District Council, and acts as a collecting centre for fat stock under the Ministry of Food. A large number of store animals are slso at the market during the year. The undermentioned gives a list of the number of animals entering during the year:-

Pigs	...	...	1934
Sheep	...	...	13947
Calves	...	...	1422
Cattle	...	...	1554

Refuse Disposal.

Refuse is collected twice weekly from almost all premises within the area by means of a modern petrol driven refuse collection vehicle. Disposal is effect by means of controlled tipping on land adjacent to the Chepstow Racecourse. The collection and salvage of waste paper is carried out systematically, and whilst the present high prices for waste paper exist, this service is undoubtedly self-supporting.